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LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been asked to forward the following letter to the Security Council by the Acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 April 1993 from the Acting Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

Right now, while I am writing this letter, a horrible human drama is taking place in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica. Regardless of all the appeals sent to the international community and despite the fact that the United Nations Security Council adopted last night resolution 819 according to which the region of Srebrenica has been proclaimed the protected zone under the international control, the Serbian fascist phalanges under the command of General Mladić are destroying the town with all the artillery available while men-to-men infantry fightings are taking place at the very accesses to the town. Scores of dead and wounded civilians are lying scattered on the streets with no chance to receive even the elementary help. Dramatic appeals from Srebrenica succeed one another. We have the undoubted evidence that General Mladić personally ordered the massacre of civilian population that occurs at the same time when this very General participates in the "peace talks", mediated by UNPROFOR, with the representatives of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Airport Sarajevo. It is the matter of hours now, it would soon be too late for the international community to undertake any action. If orders issued by General Mladić be carried out then, I am afraid, the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vance-Owen plan included, would become absolutely pointless.

I would like to ask you to use the authority that you undoubtedly have and to do whatever is in the capacity of a human being to stop this crime over innocent civilians. I would like to stress once again that it is not the matter of hours but minutes that could mean death and horrifying atrocities for several thousands men, women, children and elderly people who have no means whatsoever to defend their lives.

(Signed) H. Efendić
Acting Prime Minister